

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

## INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.

PCT/CH2004/000026

## Box No. I Basis of the report

1. With regard to the **language**, this report is based on the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.
- ☐ This report is based on translations from the original language into the following language \_\_\_\_\_, which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of:
- ☐ international search (Rule 12.3 and 23.1(b))
- ☐ publication of the international application (Rule 12.4)
- ☐ international preliminary examination (Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3)
2. With regard to the **elements** of the international application, this report is based on *(replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report)*:
- ☐ the international application as originally filed/furnished
- ☒ the description:
- pages 1-13 \_\_\_\_\_ as originally filed/furnished
- pages\* \_\_\_\_\_ received by this Authority on \_\_\_\_\_
- pages\* \_\_\_\_\_ received by this Authority on \_\_\_\_\_
- ☒ the claims:
- nos. \_\_\_\_\_ as originally filed/furnished
- nos.\* \_\_\_\_\_ as amended (together with any statement) under Article 19
- nos.\* 1-11 \_\_\_\_\_ received by this Authority on 31.05.2005 with letter of 31.05.2005
- nos.\* \_\_\_\_\_ received by this Authority on \_\_\_\_\_
- ☒ the drawings:
- sheets 1/2, 2/2 \_\_\_\_\_ as originally filed/furnished
- sheets\* \_\_\_\_\_ received by this Authority on \_\_\_\_\_
- sheets\* \_\_\_\_\_ received by this Authority on \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ a sequence listing and/or any related table(s) – see Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing.
3. ☐ The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:
- ☐ the description, pages \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ the claims, nos. \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ the drawings, sheets/figs \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ the sequence listing (*specify*): \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ any table(s) related to sequence listing (*specify*): \_\_\_\_\_
4. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments annexed to this report and listed below had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).
- ☐ the description, pages \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ the claims, nos. \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ the drawings, sheets/figs \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ the sequence listing (*specify*): \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ any table(s) related to sequence listing (*specify*): \_\_\_\_\_

\* If item 4 applies, some or all of those sheets may be marked "superseded."

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Box No. V	Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement		
1.	Statement		
	Novelty (N)	Claims <u>1-11</u>	YES
		Claims _____	NO
	Inventive step (IS)	Claims <u>1-11</u>	YES
		Claims _____	NO
	Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims <u>1-11</u>	YES
		Claims _____	NO
2.	Citations and explanations (Rule 70.7)		
	<p>This report makes reference to the following documents:</p> <p>D1: US 2003/222038 A1 (COLLIER JAMES P) 4 December 2003 (2003-12-04)</p> <p>1. Independent claim 1: D1, which is regarded as the closest prior art, discloses (entire document) a similar device, from which the subject matter of claim 1 differs in that in the former, each of the lower ends of the two vertical supports is bent to form a base such that the vertical supports are approximately centered over the surfaces of the bases, and all of the previously mentioned parts are bent from one pipe.</p> <p>Therefore, the subject matter of claim 5 is novel (PCT Article 33(2)).</p> <p>The problem to be solved by the present invention can be regarded as that of providing a device for drying and storing sports</p>		

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	<p>equipment, for example for ice hockey players, which can be manufactured in an efficient and cost-effective manner.</p> <p>The solution to this problem as proposed in claim 1 of the present application involves an inventive step (PCT Article 33(3)) for the following reasons:</p> <p>A person skilled in the art cannot directly derive the feature "each of the lower ends of the two vertical supports is bent to form a base such that the vertical supports are approximately centered over the surfaces of the bases, and all of the previously mentioned parts are bent from one pipe" from the cited prior art. The above feature is not an obvious possibility from which a person skilled in the art would choose according to the circumstances in order to solve the problem of interest.</p> <p>2. Dependent claims 2-11:</p> <p>These claims are dependent on claim 1 and therefore likewise meet the PCT requirements for novelty and inventive step.</p>